(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to re-establish the port restrictions for the import of natural rubber;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government propose to channelise the entry of cardamom into the country through selected ports; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No such restrictions are in place.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise. Quantitative restrictions on the import of various items including pepper, cardamom, and natural rubber were removed as part of the process of economic liberalization and in terms of our International commitments and obligation. However, the import of these three items is being monitored on a regular basis by the Government for checking any surge in imports. The Government can regulate imports through adjustment in the customs tariff within the bound rates in case of an exceptional increase in imports.

Countries having trade relations with India

2983. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries having trade relations with India as on date;

(b) the details of import and export made with each of the countries during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to strengthen the trade relations with various countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) India has trade relations with about 200 countries. The names of countries, values of import/export year-wise and commodity-wise are given in the 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. II (Imports)' and the 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. I (Exports)'of 2003, 2004 and 2005 published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) which are available in the Parliament Library. However, India's trade (import/export) during the last three years with the major countries of the world is given below:

India's trade with major countries (in US$ billion)

EXPORTS

Sl. No.	Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	USA	10.90	11.49	13.27
2.	United Arab Emirates	3.33	5.13	7.10
3.	China Peoples' Republic	1.98	2.96	4.59
4.	Singapore	1.42	2.12	3.80
5.	Hong Kong	2.61	3.26	3.65
6.	UK	2.50	3.02	3.54
7.	Germany	2.11	2.54	2.64
8.	Belgium	1.66	1.81	2.44
9.	Italy	1.36	1.73	2.16
10.	Japan	1.86	1.71	1.98
11.	France	1.07	1.28	1.64
12.	Bangladesh	1.18	1.74	1.59
13.	Netherlands	1.05	1.29	1.52
14.	Saudi Arabia	0.94	1.12	1.37
15.	Sri Lanka	0.92	1.32	1.35

IMPORT

Sl.No.	Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	China Peoples' Republic	2.79	4.05	6.75
2.	USA	4.44	5.03	6.29
3.	Switzerland	2.33	3.31	5.82
4.	United Arab Emirates	0.96	2.06	4.58
5.	Belgium	3.71	3.98	4.57
6.	Germany	2.40	2.92	3.87
7.	Australia	1.34	2.65	3.56
8.	UK	2.78	3.23	3.43
9.	Korea RP	1.52	2.83	3.19
10.	Japan	1.84	2.67	3.01
11.	Singapore	1.43	2.09	2.58
12.	Indonesia	1.38	2.12	2.51
13.	Malaysia	1.47	2.05	2.22
14.	South Africa	2.09	1.90	2.15
15.	Hong Kong	0.97	1.49	1.71

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(c) Strengthening of the trade relations with countries and groups of countries is a continous and ongoing process. Efforts are regularly being made to expand and diversify trade through various such as trade market research, information dissemination, buyer-seller meets, participation in important trade fairs, meeting of the Joint Commissions/Councils to help identify potential areas/sectors for promoting trade. In order to enhance trade engagement, various integrated programmes *i.e.* "Focus: Latin American and Caribbean Countries (LAC)", "Focus: Africa" and "Focus: CIS Programmes" were launched to benefit from the trade potential of the concerned regions. In addition Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and Framework Agreement for establishment an FTA have also been signed with various countries.